

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190033
ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, PORS, MPOL, OCLR, CW, NZ, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT OF COOK ISLANDS GOVT CHANGE

REF: WELLINGTON 3903

1. WASH POST THIS MORNING (JULY 27) CARRIED STORY BY CHARLES HILLINGER OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES FROM RAROTONGA REPORTING THE JUDICIAL OVERTURNING OF SIR ALBERT HENRY'S GOVERNMENT. ARTICLE GIVES GENERAL SITUATION AS OUTLINED REFTEL, QUOTES SIR HENRY AS SAYING: "I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING CRIMINAL. MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. WHAT I DID WAS FOR THE GOOD OF MY COUNTRY. I BORROWED THE MONEY TO GIVE MY SUPPORTERS IN NZ FREE FLIGHTS....IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF STABLE GOVERNMENT IN THE COOK ISLANDS." STORY ALSO STATES THAT, WHILE AT ONE POINT IN TRIAL HENRY CLAIMED HE HAD BORROWED THE DOLLARS 350,000 USED TO TRANSPORT HIS SUPPORTERS AS A "PERSONAL LOAN" FROM FINBAR KENNY, KENNY DENIED MAKING A PERSONAL LOAN IN A
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LETTER TO THE COURT AND INSISTED THAT SIR HENRY HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THE MONEY BE MOVED FROM THE PHILATELIC BRANCH TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUND FOR 'GOVERNMENT PURPOSES.' KENNY REPORTEDLY DOCUMENTED HIS LETTER WITH SIGNED MEMOS FROM HENRY. HENRY IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAS REPAID THE DOLLARS 350,000.

2. RECOMMEND THAT IN DISCUSSING THIS CASE WITH SUPT KHAN
AND OTHERS, EMBASSY GUARD AGAINST IMPLYING IN ANY WAY THAT
KENNY IS GUILTY OF VIOLATIONS OF THE FOREIGN CORRUPT
PRACTICES ACT. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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